

# GROWING IN FAITH



## Reality!

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. <VN>22</VN>

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

-Luke 2:21-32

## GOING DEEPER

As we read today's scripture, we can see that the law of the Lord was fulfilled.

Why is this significant? Would you expect anything less? Why?

As Simeon enters the narrative...

Why do you think the scripture lists the things that he is looking forward to?

What do you think about the part that the Holy Spirit plays in Simeon's life? What can we learn from that?

The importance of Jerusalem as well as the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation are both illustrated in this passage.

Knowing that the promise is fulfilled, how do you feel about it during this time of year?

Is God's salvation the ultimate gift? How do we live in such a way to honor that gift?

As we continue this journey in Advent ...

What can you do to share this gift with others?

How will you do things differently in the year to come in order to honor this incredible gift that we have been given?